IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for transferring security documents, the apparatus being formed from a carrier adapted for use in an air tube system, the air tube system having a tube for transporting the carrier from a source to a destination, the carrier including:
   a) [[A]] a substantially cylindrically shaped housing defining an internal cavity, the housing being adapted to cooperate with the tube in use, to allow the carrier to be transported;
   b) [[A]] a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity in use;
   c) [[A]] a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity; and
   d) [[A]] a lock for retaining the base in place.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, the lock is formed from a dual key bi-lock mechanism.

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, the aperture being formed from a narrow slot.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, the carrier including:
   a) [[A]] a shutter movably mounted to the lid, the shutter being adapted to move between an open position, and a closed position in which the aperture is blocked;
   b) [[A]] a shutter opening system positioned in the cavity, and being adapted to be activated manually to thereby allow the shutter to be opened[[, the]]; and
   c) [[A]] a shutter closing mechanism, the shutter closing mechanism being provided on the outside of the housing, and being adapted to be activated once security documents have been inserted into the cavity.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 4, the carrier being adapted to be positioned in a docking station, to allow the carrier to be positioned in a gaming table in use, with the aperture aligned with a game table slot.

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5, the gaming table including an actuator for activating the shutter closing mechanism when the carrier is removed from the gaming table.

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, the carrier including an identifier, the air tube system including a number of detectors positioned at respective locations in the air tube system, the detectors being adapted to:
   a) ~~Detect~~ detect the identifier of carriers traversing the location; and
   b) ~~Transfer~~ transfer an indication of the identifier to a controller adapted to determine the location of the carrier in accordance with the detector and the identifier.

8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 7, the carrier including a communications system for transferring an indication of the identifier to the detector.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8, the transmitting system being formed from an RFID system.

10. (Original) A docking system for receiving a carrier for transporting security documents, the carrier having a cylindrically shaped housing having an aperture in a first end for receiving the documents, the docking system including a substantially cylindrical shaped cavity adapted to receive the carder, the docking system being adapted to cooperate with a gaming table such that documents inserted through a gaming table slot are received by the carrier aperture.

11. (Currently amended) A docking system according to claim [[11]] 10, the docking system including a locking mechanism, the locking mechanism being adapted to selectively retain the carrier in the cavity.

12. (Currently amended) A docking system according to claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, the docking system being adapted to cooperate with an aperture in the gaming table, to allowing the docking stations to be moved from an open position in which the cavity is accessible to allow the carrier to be inserted therein, and a closed position in which the carrier aperture is aligned with the slot.

13. (Currently amended) A docking station according to ~~any one of the claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, the cavity including one or more guides, the guides being adapted to cooperate with one or more carrier guides mounted to carrier to thereby align the carrier in the cavity.

14. (Currently amended) A docking system according to claim 10, the docking system being adapted to receive a carrier ~~according to any one of the claims 1 to 9~~ including:

a) a substantially cylindrically shaped housing defining an internal cavity, the housing being adapted to cooperate with the tube in use, to allow the carrier to be transported;

b) a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity in use;

c) a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity; and

d) a lock for retaining the base in place.

15. (Currently amended) A controller adapted for use in an air tube system, the air tube system including a number of controlling stations for selectively transferring carriers along interconnecting tubes between loading stations and destination stations, and one or more detectors for detecting the position of the carrier within the tubes, the controller being adapted to:

i) ~~Cause~~ cause the controlling stations to transfer a carrier loaded at a respective loading station to a destination station;

ii) ~~Monitor~~ monitor signals from the detectors to determine the changes in the position of carriers;

iii) ~~Compare~~ compare the changes in the position of each carrier to predetermined criteria; and

iv) ~~Generate~~ generate an indication in response to the comparison.

16. (Original) A controller a ccording to claim 15, each carrier including a respective identifier, the detectors being adapted to determine the respective identifier of each carrier and transfer an indication of this to the controller, being responsive to the identifier and the respective detector to determine the position of the respective carrier.

17. (Original) A controller a ccording to claim 16, the controller being adapted to transfer the carrier between respective loading and destination stations in accordance with the respective identifier.

18. (Currently amended) A controller according to ~~any one of the claims 15 to 17~~ claim 15, the controller including:

a) [[A]] a store far storing the predetermined criteria in the form of predetermined thresholds; and

b) [[A]] a processor coupled to the store, the processor being adapted to:

i) ~~Determine~~ determine the current position of the carrier;

ii) ~~Store~~ store an indication of the current position in the store;

iii) ~~Compare~~ compare the current time taken to move between subsequent positions to the selected ones of the predetermined thresholds stored in the memory; and

iv) ~~Generate~~ generate an alert in accordance with an unsuccessful comparison.

19. (Original) A controller a ccording to claim 18, the alert being at least one of an audible or visual alert.

20. (Original) A controller a ccording to claim 19, the predetermined threshold being selected in accordance with the most recent position of the carrier.

21. (Currently amended) A controller according to ~~any one of the claims 18 to 20~~ claim 18, the processor being further adapted to store an indication of the carrier positions together with an associated time indication in the store.

22. (Currently amended) An air tube system for transferring security documents, the air tube system including:

a) [[A]] a number of tubes;

b) [[One]] one or more loading stations coupled to the tubes, the loading stations being adapted to allow carriers including security documents to be loaded into the tubes;

c) [[One]] one or more destination stations coupled to the tubes, the destination stations being adapted to receive carriers from the tubes;

d) [[A]] a pump for pumping into, or out of selected ones of the tubes;

e) [[One]] one or more controlling stations for selectively interconnecting the tubes;

f) [[A]] a number of detectors for detecting the position of the carrier within the tubes; and

g) [[A]] a controller coupled to the controlling stations and the detectors, the controller being adapted to:

i) ~~Cause~~ cause the controlling stations to transfer a carrier loaded at a respective loading station to a destination station; and

ii) ~~Monitor~~ monitor signals from the detectors to determine the changes in the position of carriers.

23. (Currently amended) An air tube system according to claim 22, the controller being further adapted to:

i) ~~Compare~~ compare the changes in the position of each carrier to predetermined criteria; and

ii) ~~Generate~~ generate an indication in response to the comparison.

24. (Currently amended) An air tube system according to claim 23, the controller being ~~a controller according to any one of the claims 15 to 21~~ adapted to:

i) cause the controlling stations to transfer a carrier loaded at a respective loading station to a destination station;

ii) monitor signals from the detectors to determine the changes in the position of earners;

iii) compare the changes in the position of each carrier to predetermined criteria; and

iv) generate an indication in response to the comparison.

25. (Currently amended) An air tube system according to ~~any one of the claims 22 to 24~~ claim 22, the air tube system being adapted to transfer a carrier ~~according to any one of the claims 1 to 9~~ including:

a) a substantially cylindrically shaped housing defining an internal cavity, the housing being adapted to cooperate with the tube in use, to allow the carrier to be transported;

b) a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity in use;

c) a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity; and

d) a lock for retaining the base in place.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) An air tube [[A]] system according to claim 22 [[26]], the system being adapted for use in a gaming environment, the system further including a docking station ~~according to any one of the claims 10 to 14~~, the docking system including a substantially cylindrical shaped cavity adapted to receive the carrier, the docking system being adapted to cooperate with a gaming table such that documents inserted through a gaming table slot are received by the carrier aperture.

28. (Currently amended) A method of transferring security documents from a source to a destination, the method including:

a) ~~Loading~~ loading the security documents into a carrier;

b) ~~Transferring~~ transferring the carder from a loading station to a destination station via an air tube system;

c) ~~Detecting~~ detecting the position of the carrier within the air tube system;

d) ~~Compare~~ compare the position of the carrier within the air tube system to predetermined criteria; and

e) ~~Generate~~ generate an indication in accordance with the results of the comparison.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[28]] 27, the method being performed using [[the]] a carrier ~~of any one of the claims~~ including:

a) a substantially cylindrically shaped housing defining an internal cavity, the housing being adapted to cooperate with the tube in use, to allow the carrier to be transported;

b) a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity in use;

c) a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity; and

d) a lock for retaining the base in place.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 ~~or claim 29~~, the method being performed using a controller ~~according to any one of the claims~~ for controlling the air tube system.